IS [ai-esu]
Volume 11 Chapter 46
by ROKUHANA Chiyo

Ki: Typeset
malaysian branch

Koshi: Scanned
canadian branch

Megchan: Translated
american branch

Fourchaise: Cleaned
french branch

Dokukinoko Scanlations
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I"S

[ai-esu]

11

六花チヨ

Chiyo Rokuhana/IS⑪

I [ai-esu] S 11

人物紹介

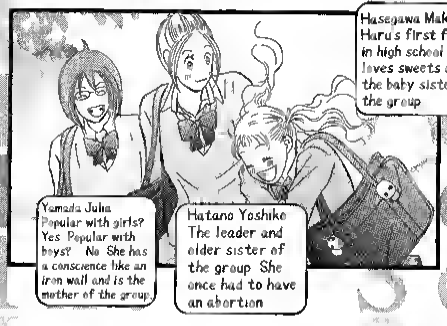
Hoshino Family

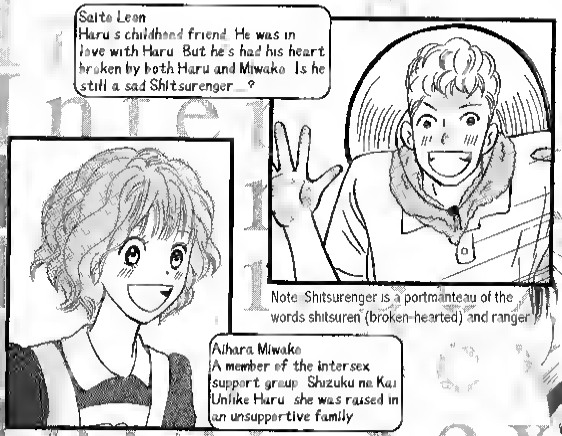
Hoshino Haru
An intersex person born with both male and female sex organs. He identifies as male, but his body is becoming progressively more female. Still in high school, he has the support of his family and wishes to live as intersex.
Dad - Taro
Mom - Yoko
Natsu (older twin)
Aki (younger twin)
Fuyu (Haru's little brother)

Haru's Friends

Ibuki Kenji
Haru's first love. When he first found out that Haru was intersex, he put some distance between them, but eventually learned to see past "male" and "female" and declared his love for Haru!

The Culinary Sisters


Hasegawa Maki
Haru's first friend in high school. She loves sweets and is the baby sister of the group.
Yamada Juha
Popular with girls? Yes. Popular with boys? No. She has a conscience like an iron wall and is the mother of the group.
Hatano Yoshiko
The leader and older sister of the group. She once had to have an abortion.


Saito Leon
Haru's childhood friend. He was in love with Haru. But he's had his heart broken by both Haru and Miwako. Is he still a sad Shitsurenger...?
Note: Shitsurenger is a portmanteau of the words shitsuren (broken-hearted) and ranger.
Aihara Miwako
A member of the intersex support group Shizuku no Kai. Unlike Haru, she was raised in an unsupportive family.

I S [ai-esu] 11

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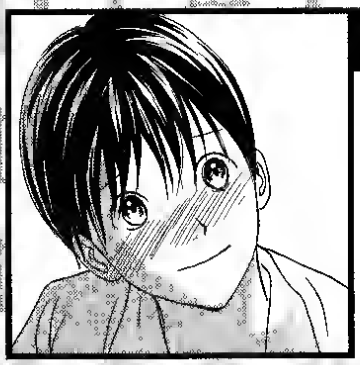
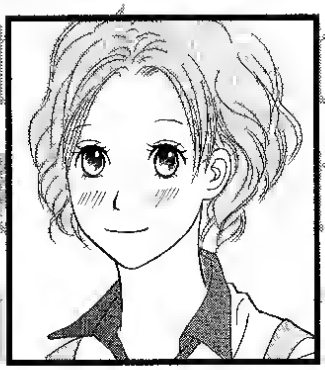


CASE 3：

春㊻ P5

春㊼ P41



春㊽ P77

春㊾ P113

春　番外編 [Extra-Story] P150

★この物語はフィクションです。
実在の人物・団体名とは関係ありません。

Case 3: Haru 46

So hot.
カッ
だ――ら
だ――ら
so hot.
ミ――ン
ミンミンミン
so hot.
むおみ――ん
Asphalt

It's hot
So hot.
So hot.
So hot
So hot
Hey.
Hmm?
Does thinking about how hot it is
make you feel hotter?
Yeah... How 'bout this?
It's... cold.
So cold.
Freezing
Cold.
Freezing
So cold.
ヒカー
HOT
Ahh
It's no use

Aaaaargh!
Ugh!
I can't stand this stupid tie...
Yeah!
Whaaaa!?
Four?
Why!?
You know...
...Huh? Hoshino, how many shirts are you wearing?
.....
Oh...
Right...
It must be tough for you.
It was summer again, the season of not knowing what to wear.

But I'm a male student this year
so I can't do that
Besides
Last year I wore that sports bra Usami gave me,
and managed somehow
Hi, Motoki
What's that ist ye looking at?
チラ
チラ

That's the one, right?
Hoshino Haru.
I saw the email.
Me, too...
He's dating
.....
another boy in his year.
Let's get out of here, Hoshino.
Huh?
Last year he was a girl.
He's inter... sex..? Or something

Dummy!
They're homos, right?
D'you think they do it?
He's got tits...
はぁ
はぁ。
Homos?
Is that midget one of them, too?
You know how two guys have sex?
Ugh! Don't say it!
Kitchen
One night on our school trip,
I told the girls I was dating Ibuki in order to protect Yocchan.
はぁ。
はぁ。
はぁ。

If you read this message send it on to 5 more people
And by the next, through the whole school
But by the the rumor next had spread day, through my whole year
No, probably even further than that
ガニャン
We were supposed to decide what we're making for the school festival today.
That's weird.
"Is that midget one of them, too?"
No one else showed up.
.....
.....

ガラ
You guys!
Come on, man.
And so things spiraled out of control,
driving my friends away
and hurting the one who meant the most to me.
That's Ibuki's class
Fweeet!

Hey, toss me a ball!
I don't wanna...
Ibuki...
Everyone in position! We're gonna have a practice game now!
Fuueeeh!
Hehe...

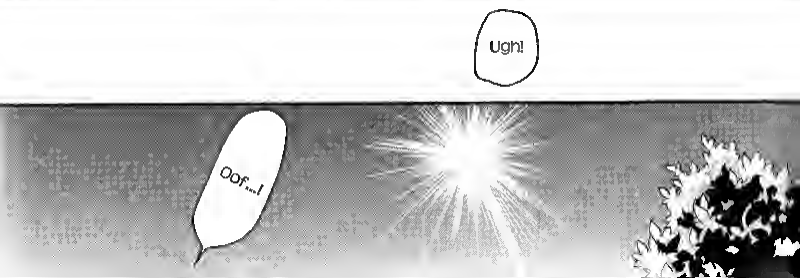
If it were just me, I wouldn't care
Sorry, my aim was off.
Yeah
That sucks, man
Ugh!
I was filled with regret.
.....
But
I'm gonna go change
Now that Ibuki was involved,
Hoshino.

Um...
tell Ibuki
to watch out.
.....?
... What's this?
It's been making the rounds
He was the soccer team's star player, after all.
SLASH
So everyone's getting a kick out of it.
.....
I should have told him no...

Looking for more photos of Ibuki-kun
カタ
カタカタ
I should have refused
When Ibuki said that,
"Let's be open about this"
It was stupid of me
to reveal our relationship.
There are only a few people
who really understand me...

Huh...?
gone?
The door's...

when I told everyone
I was intersex
It felt like it was last summer again


Ugh!
Oof...!

How many
did it take
to pull this off!?
It's almost time for class...
CROSS
Wah!
!?

DING
DONG
GROSS
DING
DONG
Oh..
Crap..
...I'm feeling light-headed again...

ミーーーン
ミーーーン
カナ
カナ
カナ
カナ

Why
won't they understand...?
We look like two guys...
but we just like each other, that's all.
I just like Ibuki.

...So why?
"I want to be with him."
"I want to treasure him."
"I don't want to hurt him."
That's the same for everyone, right?
Why is everyone
so obsessed with appearances?

And it makes me so sad knowing it's all because he's with me.
Whoa, they've already started.
Up here
there's a spot with a great view.
They're hurting Ibuki...
We'd better hurry, Hoshino.
When- ever they laugh at him
it hurts even more... than when it's me.
I'm sorry.
Hoshino?
See? That park—

things hard ...
.....
Huh ...?
...At school.
I...I'm sorry
for making
Hoshi ...no.
I'm sorry for putting you through this..
C'mon.
Let's go.

The first time
you came to my house.
I was really glad.
キュッ
you didn't say anything about my sister, right?
And when I ran away
and left you alone,
you never blamed me.

You were kind to me.
and it made me want to be kind to you
It made me want to have courage
.....
I like you.

It's not
a problem.
Don't
cry.
It's
not...
I'm OK.
So
.....

What hurts
is being apart from you, Hoshino.
What would hurt is breaking up.

... When ...
.....
.....
?
uh...
.....
Oh..
I...I know. How 'bout like this?
ㅌ슷
mine like that...it makes me...want to kiss you...
y, your chest
is up
... against

キュっ
After...
graduation,
you want to train somewhere, right?
...Yeah.
I've decided...I want to get a job in welfare.

And I've learned so much being with everyone
I want to help my mom.
Like the importance of supporting each other.
Things you can't learn in school...
And that happiness is being able to move freely and meet lots of different people...
And that you should never abandon hope.

Right now
so much is going on
but at least
there are people who understand
And little by little
that number will grow.
In 10 years
20 years...

That's still a long way off,
but I hope I can still be with you,
and laugh with you.
And there won't be any prejudice...
And we can hold hands like it's normal
We'll say "Times were so tough back then"
and "Remember when you cried as we watched the fireworks?"
and drink beer
and watch soccer together...
And we'll laugh

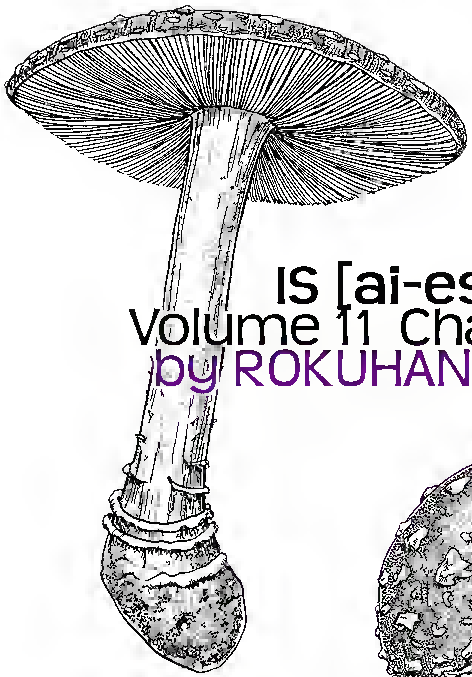
like it was tomorrow.
to hear Ibuki talking about the distant future
It made me happy.
Right?
But more than anything, I was happy
that I was in his future.

I...
They're so pretty.
ズ
I'll bake cakes
that can make anyone happy.
...
am going to become a great patissier.
so they can keep trying.
For those who aren't blessed,
for those who have lost heart,
!?
ガシッ
グィーン
わっ

So don't cry, OK?
Let's keep trying
At some point
Ibuki's pain became my pain,
and happiness
was ours to share

Two as one.
That's what I thought.
キュッ
キュッ
キュポッ
There.

Someday everyone will understand.
NOT GROSS !!
Let's be open about this!!
We will reach the future we're dreaming of.
That's what I believe.



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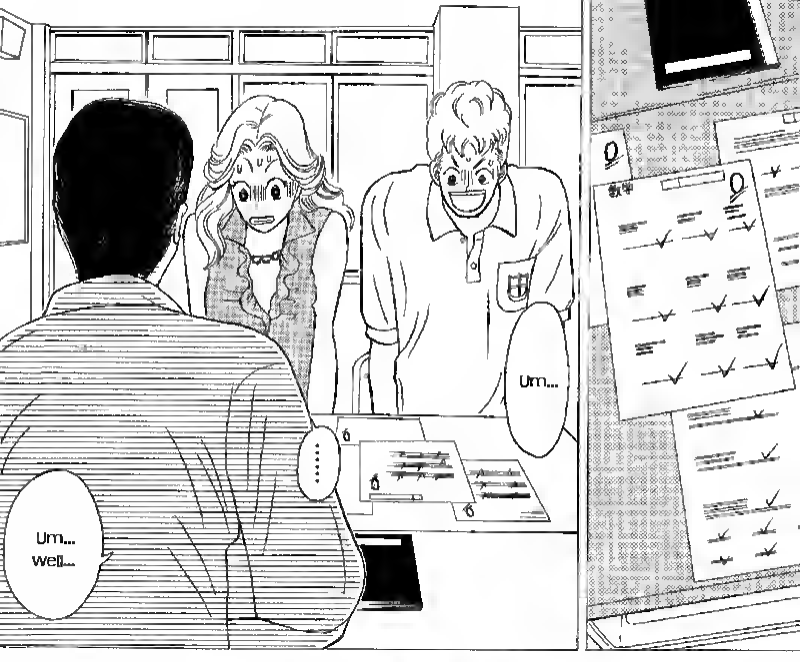
Ahhhhh!
It's so refreshing out here!
The sun is shining.
And look, the grass is still wet with dew.
Ahhhh!
Dear Mom in heaven,

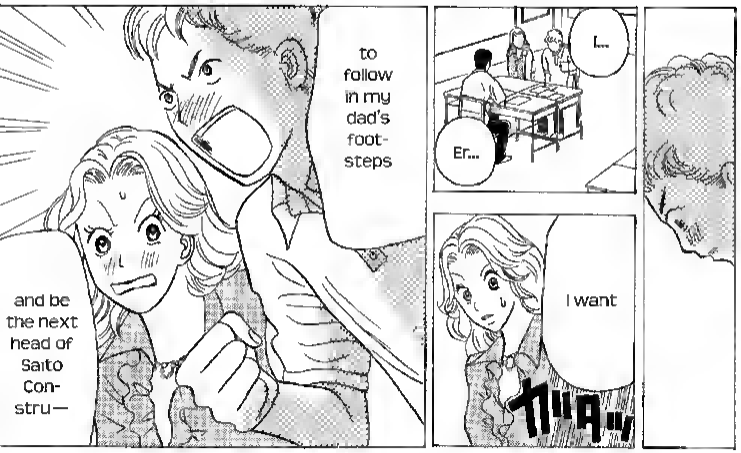
My life is really fulfilling
Watch out!
スコーン
My memories are whirling around like a lantern...
Hi, huh?
Mom

I got a weird email about Haru
and went over to his house to make sure everything was OK
Are you
sure you're OK?
It was right before summer vacation
People have been talking a lot of shit about us,
And then...
but Ibuki said
"someday everyone will understand"
and "we can make it".

ピカー
Haru's so bright
So I'll be OK.
キラ
キラキラ
At some point
their relationship
Leon-kun,
What do you want to do when you grow up?
And as for me...
became something beautiful and bright
like a twinkling star


Um...
……
Um... well...

キラ


I...
Er...
I want
カリ...
to follow in my dad's foot-steps
and be the next head of Saito Con-stru—

スパーン
You idiot!
You'll ruin the company!
Leon-kun, don't worry about it.
We haven't told you yet,
but you're going to be a big brother soon.
母子手帳
?

Whaaaaat
So you just leave the company to your little brother
and you do whatever you like.
B, brother?
OK?
パターン
In other words,
I'm not the brightest star, I'm a dumbass star.
Dumbass Star
There's nothing for dumbass stars.

No one expects anything of them.
No dreams.
"I want to be a patissier."
I have absolutely nothing.
The future seemed so far away, but suddenly it was here.

It was enough that even I started to panic
The summer of 2nd year
I have to do some thing.
I was a million lightyears away from the brightest star
But I was empty
I don't even feel like trying anymore.
Everyone around me
suddenly looked so grown up
Just then...
I ran into Miwako san...
Job Search

Long time... no see
G, good to see you, Miwako-san.
Job Search
Are you looking for a job, Leon-kun?
はっ
Huh...? Oh yeah.
Job Search
Ahaha
Just trying to polish my skills, you know? Prepare for the future and all that.
A golf course?
高原カントリークラブ
Y, yeah.
I thought this one for the assistant grounds-keeper sounded cool.
M, maybe...I'll apply...too
Huh?
Hey,
would it be OK if I applied, too!?
What!? But Miwako-san's a hikikomori!

Art: Takahara Country Club

Note: A hikikomori is a person who withdraws from society and rarely, if ever, leaves their house, or even their bedroom.

"I'm Hoshino Haru."
Then
she met Haru and got better
and she was unable to go out.
her mom tried to force her to get surgery
is that because she's intersex,
No.
What really happened
ピヨ
ピヨ
And she was like a newborn chick
Haru kun
Haru kun
ピヨ
Was it because of Haru?
Not that I mind, since it means we get to work together
キュイン
"I'm gonna look for a job"
But why this?
グイ
ニ

Was anyone looking?
キュイーン
You dumb-ass!
……
Crap
Oh
About the score
So hey
Are they high-schoolers, too?
Even here I'm a dumbass.

ガラ
Welcome!
Th'
Born the brightest star
You idiot! You're supposed to greet the customers
I hope Miwako san is all right.
Here you go.
Hey, do you live around here?
Uh... yes.
What a cutie
I know, right?

I have work on the weekend, too.
We're just here on our summer break.
He likes her.
Wanna hang out on your day off?
Then we should date.
Huh?
How 'bout it?
.....
If you don't have any days off, we can hang out after you get off work.
There's ...someone I like.
OK, great!! What time should I pick you up?
I have a girlfriend, too!!
What a coinci-dence!!
I...I...

So how about a "summer fling"?
It'll be our secret.
The two of us
can do all sorts of fun things together.

Miwako-san!?
(はあ)
(はあ)
What's wrong?
It's not... going well.
I always feel inferior...
And can't .. say how I feel.

I can't get along with people well.
ピチチ
Wow, what a pretty bird.
Want to go for a walk?
Why'd you want to get a job?
with my mom.
Nothing's changed
チチチ

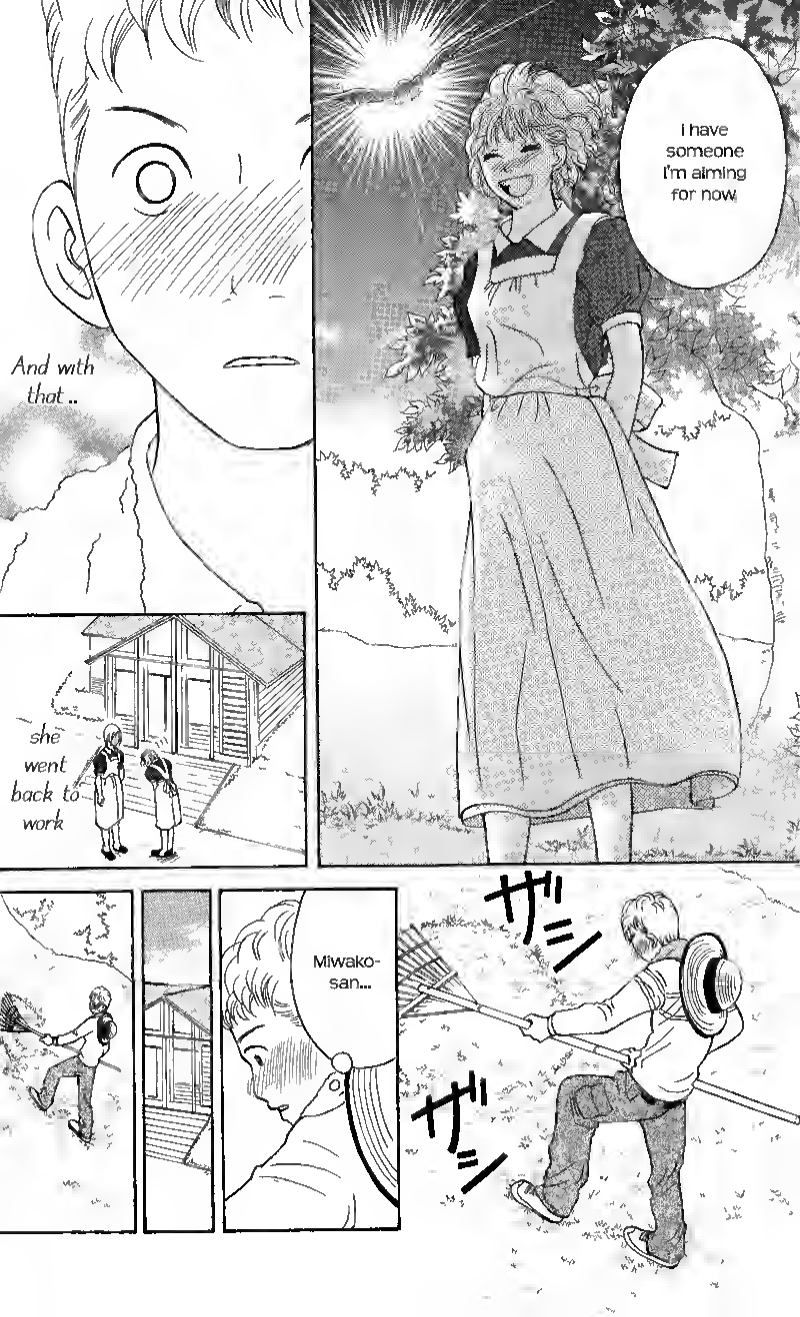
I wanted to show her
We still don't get along...
she doesn't need to worry about me
So
Huh?
There was a parent-teacher meeting recently.
"I'd like for her to go to a junior college and then find a good job."

and hide it
I'll have surgery
and get married
"So the sooner she gets married, the better."
"Well, she's a girl"
My mom still hopes
But I think she's wrong.
keeping a secret like that.
I don't think I can be happy
I could be happy being intersex...
my mom would be happier, too,
if she thought
And I think

I want to reassure her that being intersex isn't a handicap.
So I want to get a job
and be able to live on my own.
And I hope maybe one day
she'll be glad she gave birth to me
even though I'm intersex.
I've always
thought of it as a handicap myself.
ピチ

But seeing Haru-kun...
I hated it
and tried to run away.
Right now I'm looking for a job somewhere other than my dad's shop
Somewhere I can hone my skills!
Somewhere I can concentrate on coming up with new cakes
He doesn't let being intersex hold him back.
Somewhere that will lead to a career after graduation

I feel like I should stop running, too.
I...
He just keeps aiming higher,
and ever since I met him,
You've really changed, Miwako-san.
Well...


I have someone I'm aiming for now
And with that..
she went back to work
Miwako-san...
ザシ
ザシ

You're right. It feels much better with the window open.
She's... beautiful.
Hey
Saito!?
What should I do?

I've fallen
head over heels in love with her...
My heart starts racing whenever I see her.
Let's ride home together.
キキッ

But her strength is so fragile.
I want to be there to support her.

Saito Construction
CLACK
Dad!!
Mom!!
I'm not gonna follow in your foot-steps.
So I'm sorry,
but I want to try and make it on my own.
Part of me
had always relied on my dad.
but I'd always thought "I've got the family company, so I'll be fine."
ガシッ
and can't do any thing.
I'm a dumbass
ガタ

I can't go on like this.
カチャ
I was naive
ガツガツガツ
I was running away.
But I...
ガツガツガツ
I don't know any of this
Fight
Urg...
I've got to study.
Fight
No more dumbass
OK.
Elementary School Math
Urg
Middle School Math
I've eaten, so time to get down to business.

Oh
What should I do next?
I'm done.
One-two, one-two
ザミ ザミ
I'm going to work hard.
ザーン
Why...
are you working so hard...?
ガコ
Well ...
I figured I'm getting paid for it, so I've gotta do my best.
... Saito ..
You've really grown up!
You've changed, Leon-kun.

Did something happen?
You've really been working hard lately.
What's the matter?
Um!
I...!!
There's something I want to tell you.
It's about my goal in life.
.....?

I want to be able to support
the one I love.
So I've gotta
get stronger and better.
With school
and with work.
With every-thing.
I've gotta do things right.

I'm going to be the sort of strong, smart guy
who can support the one he loves.
I've made up my mind.
Haha!
So you can always find peace
by my side...

I will.
someday you'll tell me who it is.
I didn't know you liked anyone...
That's the first I've heard of it
.....
When I get closer to my goal.
I hope
Your goal?
of everyone I know.
The awe-somest person

I wonder
if Haru-kun found a job.
My goal is Hoshino Haru, the brightest star in the sky.
I hope he finds something good.
And Haru
is also my rival.

someday you'll turn that smile on me.
I hope
Yeah.
So I'll keep going, even though I'm a dumbass star.
For you,
I'll fly a million lightyears.

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Miwako here.
This has turned out to be an unforgettable summer.
What great weather!
Miwako-san!
san!

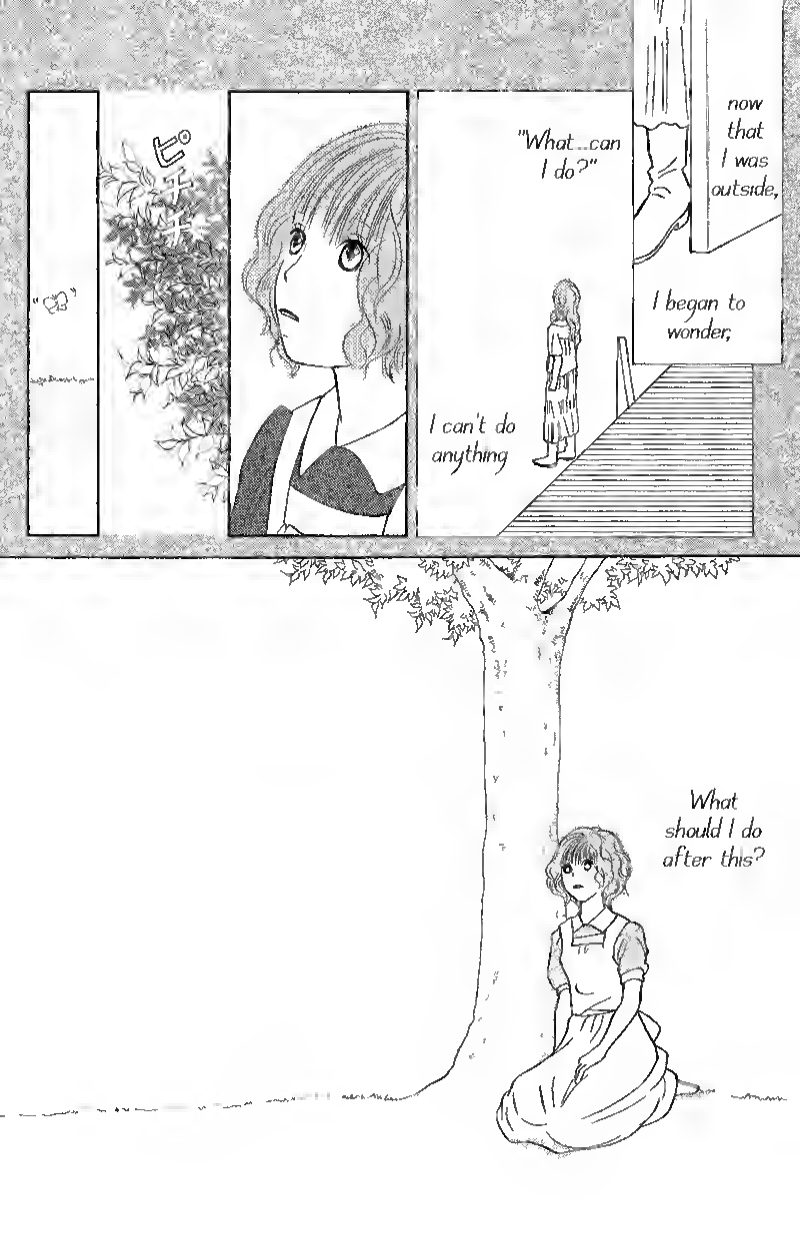
Leon -kun!
Mor-
Are you OK!?
I, I, I'm fine.
HUH!?
Um... but are your pants... OK?
Pajamas
!

You idiot!
How can you work in pajamas!?
Takahara Country Club
S, sorry
Just when you were showing signs of improvement
ガガガミガミガミ
Well, I guess I'll just have to loan you a pair.
!?
I think I have some old forgotten ones in here.
ガサゴソ
A, a pair...?
There they are.
ぷぅぅぅ～
What?
If you don't like 'em, you can go home.
はきはき
ぷぅぅぅぅぅぅぅ
Every day was so much fun.

Welcome!
but thanks to him, I kept at it.
and I never thought I'd like being a waitress,
All right, let's get to work!
ぶろ～ん
It took an hour by bike to get there
I said "good morning" to my mom today.
...So for the first time in ages,
Wow ...

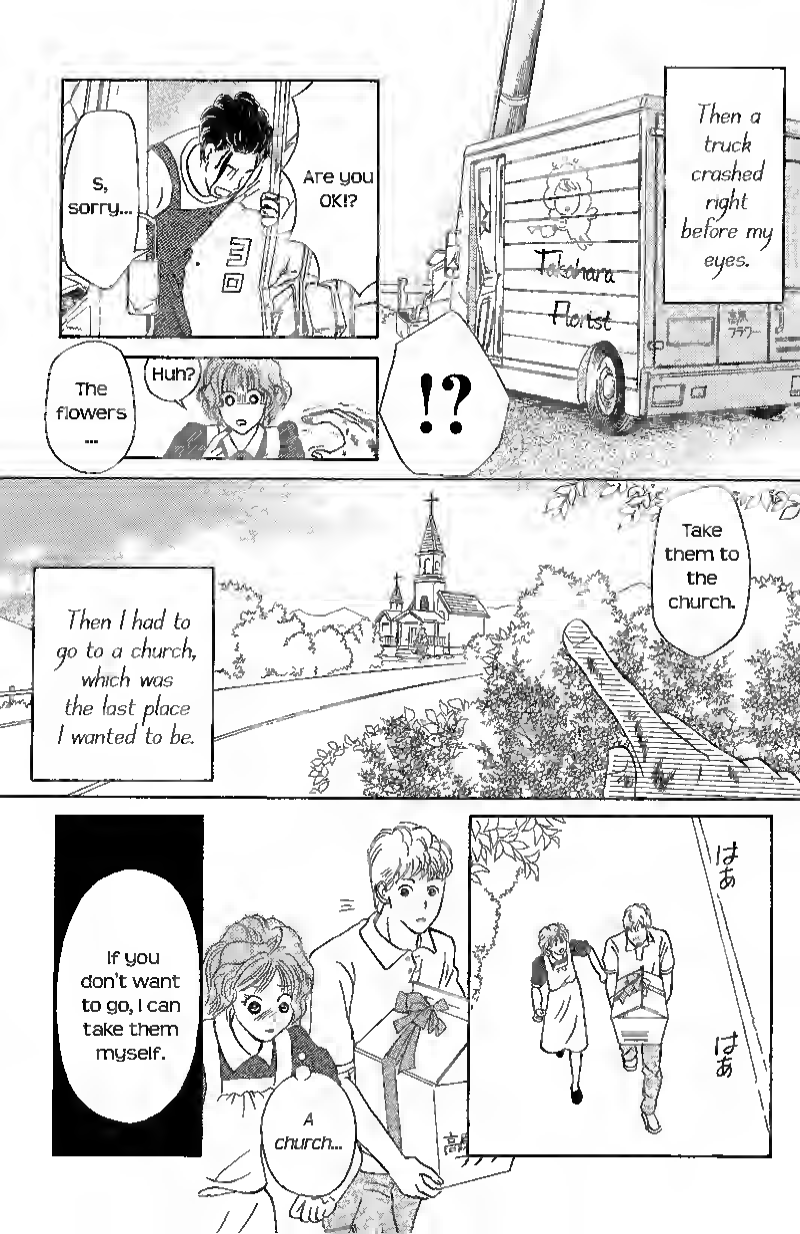
"G, good morning."
She said.
And?
And...
You're making progress.
That's great!!
Our daily chit-chat,
I've come so far!!
8th Grade Math
9th grade
After watching you work so hard...
As for me...
Look!

I was better able to interact with others.
And unlike before,
I can do it!
My time with him was relaxing.
encou-raging each other ...
catching each other up on what happened the day before,
"Self-sufficiency"
was my dream, and I felt like I was getting closer to it.
But

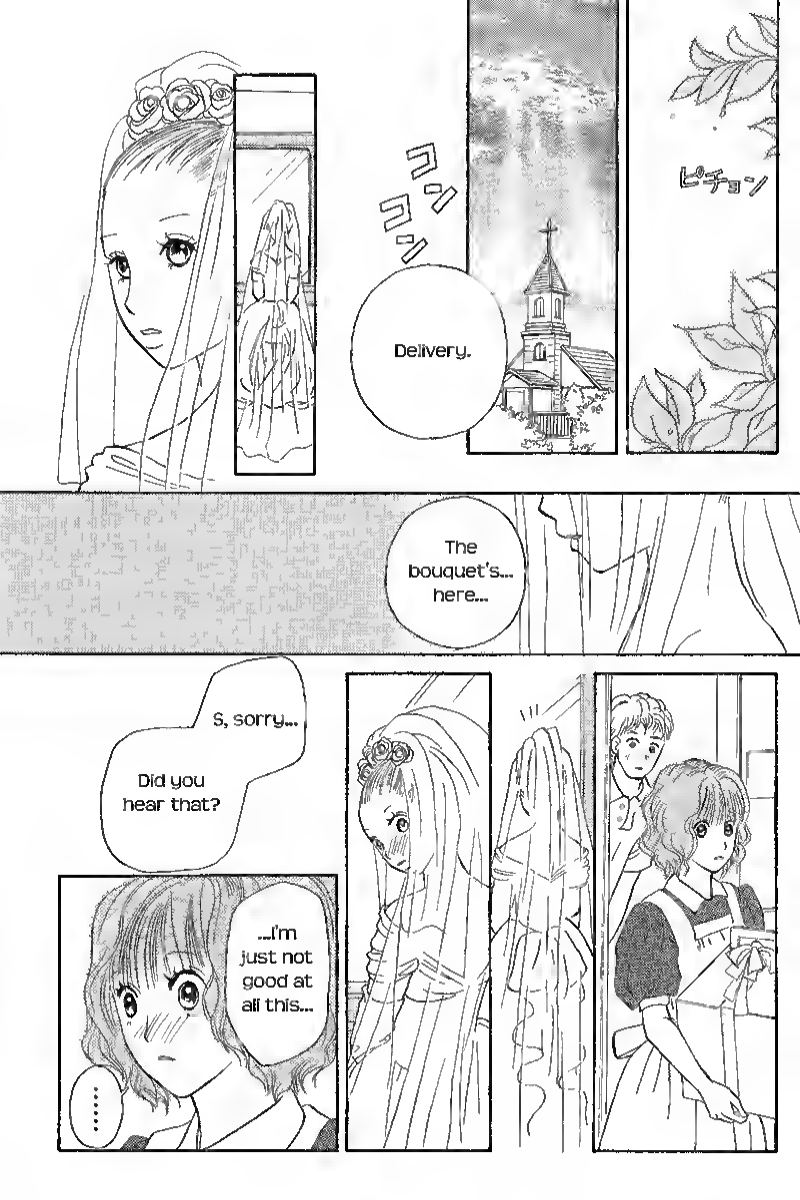

"ふ"
ピチ
"What...can I do?"
now that I was outside,
I began to wonder,
I can't do anything
What should I do after this?

!?
That moment
was the beginning
A bird?
of a series of accidents that seemed to guide me
There's something ...in my ear...

Eeeeeeeek!
What's wrong!?
There's something in my ear!
It's
an ant.
TAKAHARA ENT CLINIC
First I got an ant in my ear.
ゆた
ゆた
ゾー
ガターン
CRASH


Then a truck crashed right before my eyes.
Takahara Florist
!?
S, sorry...
Are you OK!?
Huh?
The flowers ...
Take them to the church.
Then I had to go to a church, which was the last place I wanted to be.
はあ
はあ
If you don't want to go, I can take them myself.
A church...

Is it that obvious?
The reason
I don't want to go,
Is 'cause I'll lose my confidence --
When I see
the life my mom wants for me,
I know it'll make me sad.


コンコン
Delivery.
ピチョン
The bouquet's... here...
S, sorry...
Did you hear that?
...I'm just not good at all this...
……

Are you all right?
スー
But while I was waiting for the rain to let up,
I was thinking.
It makes me lose confi-dence ...
……
When I think of how little I have to offer...
……

The people who raised me,
the people who love me,
the people who support me,
so many people are watching over me...
And that makes me happy.
I was worried about what to do with my life,
but I think as long as I continue to be grateful to all these people, I'll be fine.
Thank you.
I'm OK now.

I'm so glad
such a cute girl gave me flowers.
カーン
カーン
ガチャ
I thought seeing the wedding
would make me sad...
Miwako -san.

A rainbow.
To the church.
I wonder if the ant wanted to bring you here.
That was a great wedding.
シャー

シャーー
This summer
Leon-kun... suddenly seemed more grown-up
"I'm going to be the sort of strong, smart guy
who can support the one he loves."
カチャ
I wonder who Leon-kun likes.
ドキン

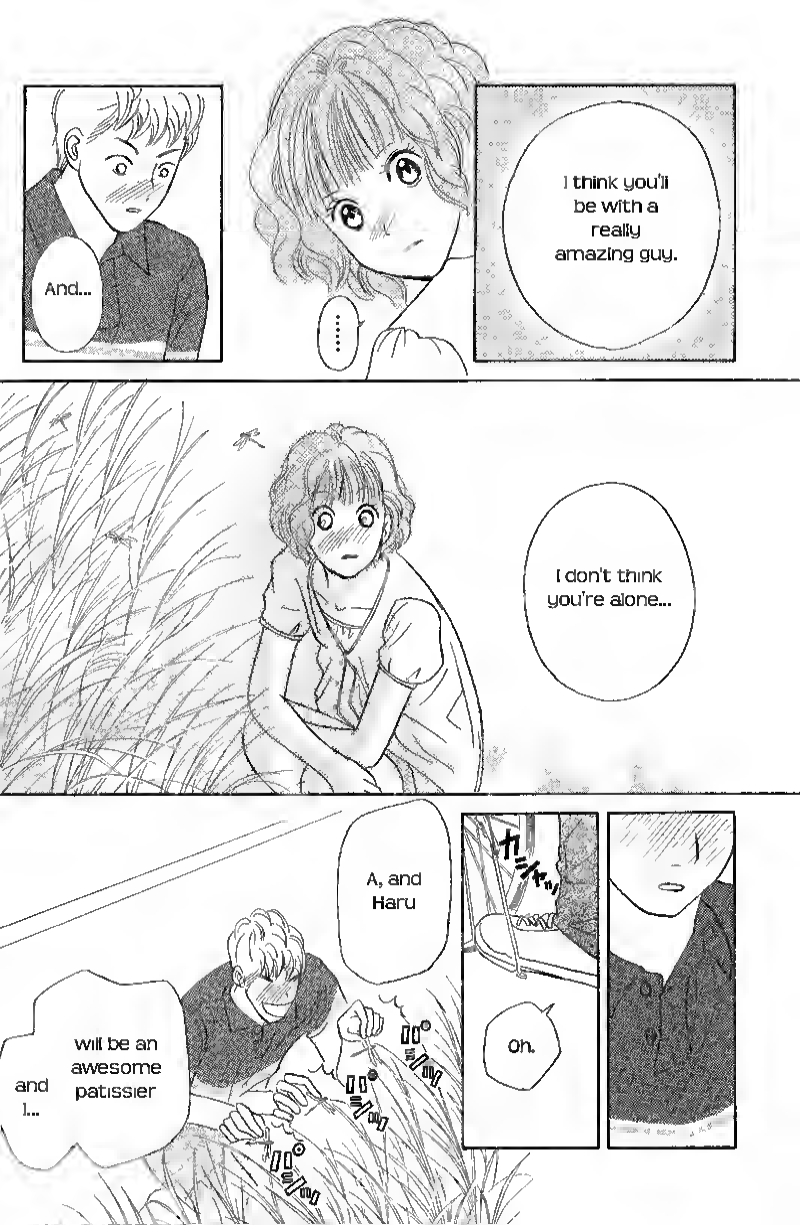
"Am I the one...
...Leon-kun likes?"
Ever since that day, whenever our eyes meet, I've wondered..
And at the same time...
"No one could love me if they really knew me."
That's what I'd always thought.
But I'm scared...
I want to find out for sure...

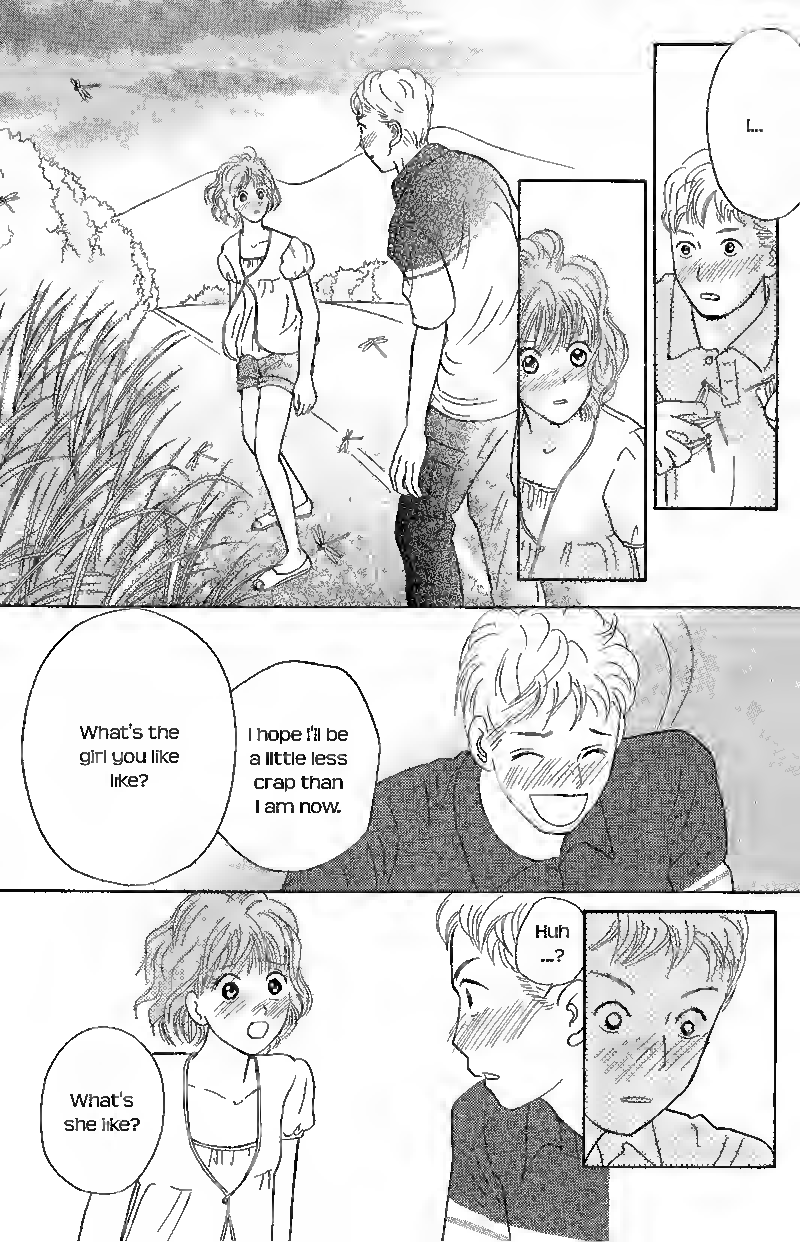
ドキン
ドキン
There's no way...
Right ...?
キキッ
The florist.
What is it?
Oh.

……
That made me so happy the other day.
That she was happy.
He's delivering bouquets again.
I guess he's OK
……
What are you gonna do, Leon-kun?
When you grow up?
Huh ...?
……
I...don't know...

Me, either.
.....
.....
I want to be self -sufficient...
My life won't be
like an ordinary girl's,
so I have to really think about it...
But I feel like
I'm at my wits' end...
カニ/ヤ

When I think about
where I might be 10 years down the road, I worry.
That I might be alone
When I think
about you 10 years from now...
...Um...


And...
.....
I think you'll be with a really amazing guy.
I don't think you're alone...
A, and Haru
will be an awesome patissier
and I...
Oh.


I...
What's the girl you like like?
I hope I'll be a little less crap than I am now.
Huh ...?
What's she like?

and fragile,
She's tiny
<3
and she's close...but really far away
but she works hard
Um...
and
so i want to support her.
she always tries to be optimistic,

I see.
I was always...
I... see.
so withdrawn, so I never noticed.
But if I'm optimistic,
there will be people who see that,
and if I work hard and don't give up,

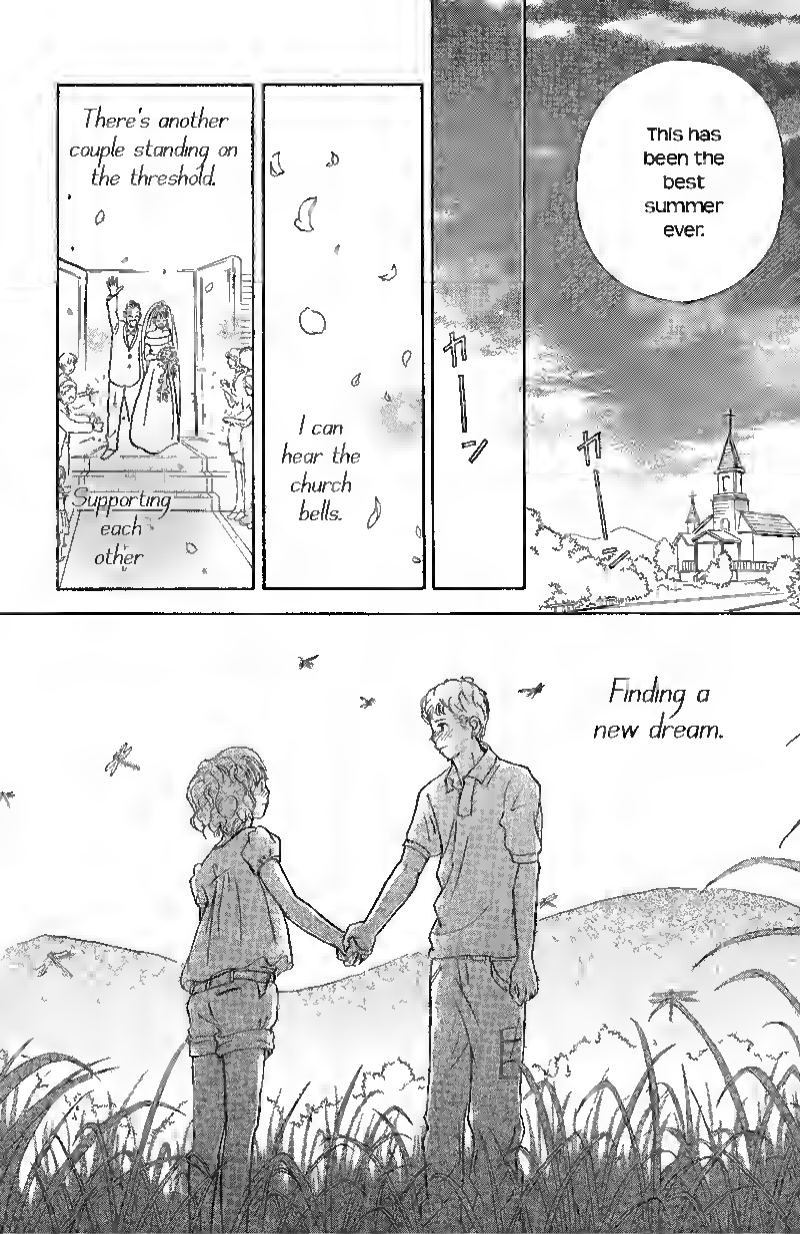
I will meet new people
the scenery around me changes, too.
and when I change,
And little by little the possibilities increase.

Miwako-san?

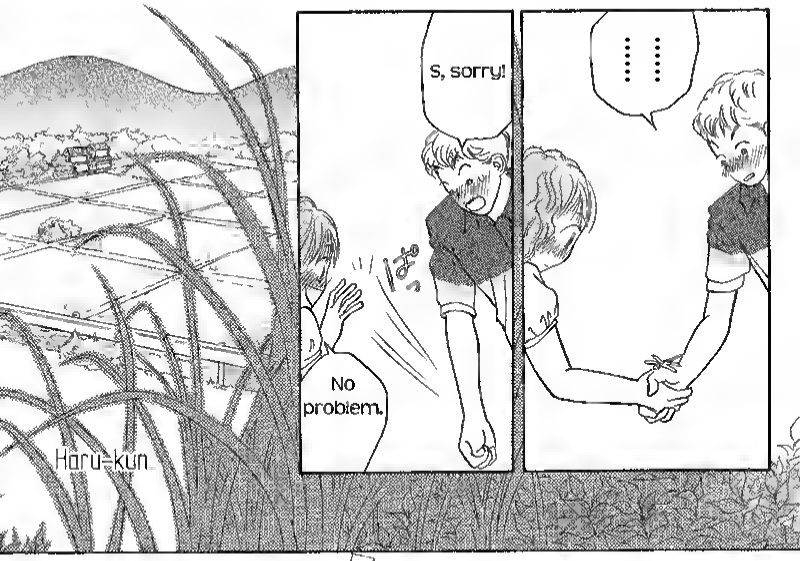
I couldn't let myself cry

I can do anything.
Let's shake.
Huh?
Let's make a promise and shake on it.
To keep trying,
just like Haru-kun.

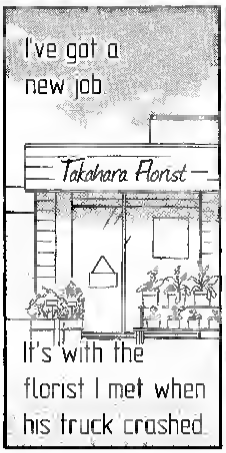
……
Together.
きゅ
Thank you.
For letting me work with you.

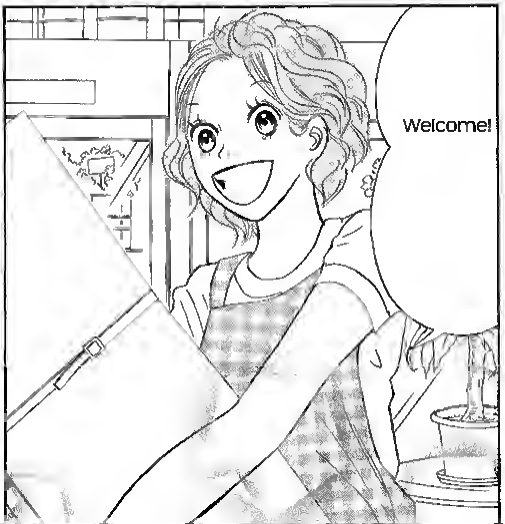

This has been the best summer ever.
I can hear the church bells.
There's another couple standing on the threshold.
Supporting each other
Finding a new dream.

...Oh.
.....
Oh...



I have an announcement





I don't just help out at the shop
I'm also learning flower arranging
It's right near the golf course so I see Leon-kun every morning
Morning!
CONCENTRATING
It makes me so happy to see the customers happy
Who is that?
Miwa-chan's really bringing in customers
Hey, what's that?
This is great!
I've been thinking I might want to make this a career
Your bouquet is done
Thanks-
Good morning
Good morning, Miwa-chan
レン

I want both good and bad experiences
to give me strength
I've decided I'm not going to live in fear
of getting hurt because I'm intersex
Done!!
And
from now on
'Cause...
that I think I wouldn't mind having
I've found one possible future
Huh?
Hahaha

Whew!
I was born intersex,
Miwako-san!
but you only live once.
I want to live life to the fullest!!
Oof!
So I want to live a life
that will make me happy!!

IS [ai-esu]
Volume 11 Chapter 49
by ROKUHANA Chiyo

Koshi: Scanned

Fourchaise: Pre-Cleaned

Brandon: Redraw

Megchan: Translated

Ki: Typeset

Dokukinoko Scanlations

[dokukinokoscans.blogspot.com]

CASE 3：春㊾

I found the job I'd always wanted.
Summer vacation
It's the sort of bakery that makes you happy just eating there.
There are 35 employees!!
Sometimes their fresh sweets sell out by noon.
They've had as many as 1000 customers in one day!!

"I wish I could work somewhere like that..."
Now that dream's come true!!
Well...
We're only dishwashers.
And only for a month.
But...
"I'm going to be an amazing pastry chef."
I considered this the first step towards that dream.
I headed to work...
It could happen!
What if we get scouted?
Holding on to the hope that this could lead to a real job
Let's go!

Nice to meet you.
She seems nice.
My name's Kobayashi. I'll be training you.
But the reality...
First wash your hands,
then sterilize them.
And then wash these.
Eep!
Don't worry!!
OK!
Wash, wash
Rinse, rinse

Dry
カチャ
Rinse, rinse
Wash, wash
Now you give it a try!!
Faster!
Gah
カリチャッ
Rinse, rinse
Wash, wash
Faster.
カリチャッ
Rinse, rinse
Wash, wash
Rinse, rinse
Wash, wash
Rinse, rinse
Wash, wash
Rinse, rinse
Wash, wash
Rinse, rinse
Wash, sh

Yeah
Let's get something to eat.
It was a lot more physical

グ…タリ

Hm?
カチャ
than I'd anticipated
Chocolate cake
もしゃもしゃ
カパッ
Chocolate mousse
How many of those're you gonna eat?
Is that your whole lunch?
Hey.
サクッ
Mille-feuille
Look...
How can you look so happy!?
Y, you're gonna make yourself sick!!
Five!?
Huh?
じゃんっ
Cake Data Notebook

I've finally got the job I wanted.
So I have to try everything.
Wow...
You're working hard.
THE OWNER !!
Yes, sir!!
But you have to eat right.
Yes, sir!
I want to be like him
Maybe one day I'll be one of them
Morning meeting
The elite!!
Cool!

Kobayashi-san's amazing, too
What happened to your arms?
Huh?
and was run over by a bike.
Whaaaat!?
I fell in the street
Oh, this?
Time to get started.
Psych?
Psych...
!?

I can work hard because I've got my dreams!!
Hurry!
Let's give it all we've got. Right!
But...
I've gotta go to the bath-room.
Be quick!
I got my period that day and was in really bad shape...
What horrible timing...
Gasp!

Hoshino-kun, rinse the pastry mold first.
OK!
Do these, please!
OK!
Make sure you don't leave them damp
OK!
An unfamiliar workplace
and a seemingly endless pile of dishes
カシャ
カチャ
カチャカチャ
クラッ
My mind's so excited about this,
but my body just can't follow through.
You OK!?
Y, yeah.
はっ
...I can't say that.
and I'm not feeling well.
"The thing is, I'm intersex

"Rinse the pastry mold first"
Huh? Where's the pastry mold I asked for?
Huh..?
Oh...
S, sorry!
CRAP

held things up for a while
My mistake
Hoshino-kun.
I'd like you to help out in the cafe. We're short-handed out there.
.....

I'll introduce you to the head of the cafe staff.
I'd won that competition
and I had experience,
so I thought I could do it...
カチャ
I'd been so sure of myself.
And if you can't do anything, the least you can do is be strong.
But my talent was nothing
in the professional world.
Suddenly I was unsure.
Even if I found someone who understood my condition
and gave me a job,

Would my body
be able to make it in this world!?
Are you OK?
would I be able to keep up?
Uh.
S, sorry.
Um...thanks for all your help.
I'm... actually quitting at the end of this month,

I'm sick of baking cakes.
Huh...?
My dream was to have a cute little shop.
I'd get married and raise my kids while running the shop,
and 3 o'clock would be "time for mama's homemade cake!!"

It was those sweet dreams that got me into this world.
I didn't care how hard things were.
And because I had my dream,
.....
no matter how hard I worked
there were always those better than me
But
after about 4 years
I realized

And to be honest, the pay's not that great.
And not even all of them
will be able to own their own shops.
A lot of people quit
once they reach a certain age...
Working long hours,
7:00 AM to 10:00 PM.
No money to strike out on my own.
No skill.
No talent.
Just filling molds
and baking pastries.

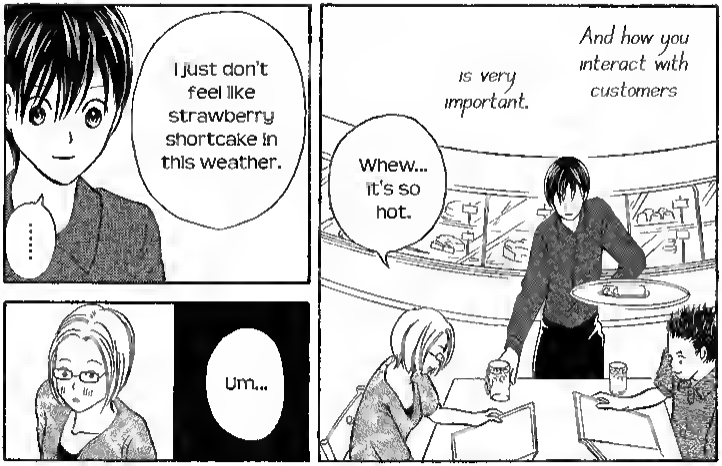
Then one day
Day in and day out.
Then filling them again.
Baking again.
What on earth am I making?
I wondered...
And all at once
the exhaustion hit me...
had begun to feel like an assembly line.
At some point my dream job

No matter how I struggled
I couldn't find the exit.
And more and more
I felt like I didn't even know what I was doing here.
I'd
reached my limit...
I'd grown weary
of working for my dreams.
I don't know what I'll do after this,
but it'll be easier than being here.
So I'm quitting.

But
It's a tough world
and I don't want you to throw it all away for one mistake.
Sorry
for telling you all this.
You've got your whole future ahead of you.
Good luck.
I can't run away.

I have to keep trying
I'm Hoshino Haru. Nice to meet you!!
I'm used to being beaten down
at school
Door
Gross
What's she doing?
Oh, we change the display at the beginning of each month.
As the owner says, "Our shop would be nothing without our customers."
By changing my work place,
I, I'll do it.
"So we should make them feel as happy as you feel when eating cake."

I was able to see the whole shop.
Wow, it's round!
This, too?
Yeah.
Everything was built with the customers' feelings in mind.
"So each visit will feel like a special day."
It was built in the shape of a birthday cake.
You can't be complacent


I just don't feel like strawberry shortcake in this weather.
.....
Um...
Whew... it's so hot.
And how you interact with customers
is very important.

for hot weather.
I've tried all of these
and this is the one I thought would be perfect
Yes.
You tried...all of them?
and the honey-soaked spongecake is refreshing.
The tanginess of the lemon makes it easy to eat

Well, for a man, I'd recommend... this one?
Wh, what are you saying!?
Uhuo
.....
I'm amazed you didn't gain weight.
What's something manly, then then?
Helping customers decide
which of the cakes they want
is important, too.
It's an essential job.
How's everything going?
Great! I'm really having fun!!

I can learn all sorts of stuff I never could in the kitchen.
I really think this is the right path for me!!
I...
was born
with one testicle
and one ovary.
.....
I'm intersex,
and while I'm living as a guy now,
I was once a schoolgirl as well.

Because I have a hormonal imbalance
I often don't feel well
and I'm not in great physical shape...
But...
I'm great with communication...
Hanging out with girls really helped me there.
Of course hanging out with guys did, too.
So...
cake
is something that makes people happy
I
want them to be happy.
And more than anyone

I want to make things
that make them happy.
These...
I just remembered.
?

"Sizzle!"
I had an accident.
One time I was baking something and I was so excited,
are actually burns.
But you know what my first thought was?
"Oh, good, they're all right!"
It was...

My arms were burnt, but all I felt was relief.
The joy was stronger than the pain.
Now I remember ...
I wanted to hear them say "delicious".
I wanted to make the customers happy.
I was so earnest.

I worked hard.
For the customers.
For the shop.
For my dreams.
One step
at a time.
I worked myself to the bone.
I just kept at it.
..Even as I thought that,
"I don't want to bake anymore."

got joy from baking.
I still
Thank you
for making me remember.
I'm so happy.
A few days later
Kobayashi-san baked cakes for all of us
And we all helped..

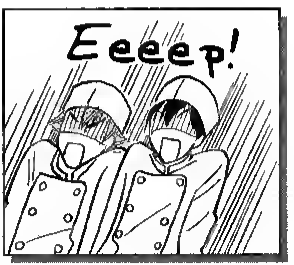
It was her last day...
Thank you
for everything.
but looking back on my 8 years here,
I feel like I can do anything.
Um...
My skills
weren't enough to make it in the pro world,
My family,
my friends,
those who have led me.
To show them how I feel.
From now on
I'll bake cakes
for those closest to me.

Thank you
for everything.
I've learned so much.
And I'm going to keep trying my best.

Thank you so much.
Though her cakes were never displayed
she had put her heart into them
in the shop,
and they tasted like warmth and tenderness.
You've worked very hard.
And you did it without sulking.
I think putting you in the cafe was the right choice.
Thank you.

when you have the chance?
Would you be willing to come again
There's us
We'd love to!!
and the owner
and the chief
and the patissiers
and the assis-tants
can make their dreams come true
but only a handful of people

But that's OK.
you'll get something out of it.
As long as you try your best
Even if your dreams don't come true
Whoo!
I can do this!!
Me, too!
Your heart will gain nourishment
to live another day.


Eeeep!

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Volume 11
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Koshi: Scanned

Fourchaise: Pre-Cleaned

Brandon: Redraw

Megchan: Translated

Ki: Typeset

Dokukinoko Scanlations
[dokukinokoscans.blogspot.com]

CASE 3 : Haru Extra Story

Hey!! It's me, Leon!
Saito Construction
Things were going great until I turned 4
I felt like the prince of the most powerful country in the world
Daddy's the president.
That's Daddy's company
Saito
Saito Construction
And Mommy loves me more than anyone in the world!
Until
just before Haru came.

Until my mom died
S...

Don't worry, Leon-kun!!
Mommy will take care of it!
Sor... ry...
Look, it'll be clean in a jiffy.
Just like magic!
See?
Ack!
Ugh!
Whew!

That stupid witch came
and destroyed my perfect kingdom.
I HATE YOU!
STUPID WITCH!
I hate you.
?
ガシャン
ガシャン
Morning, Leon.
Hey, kiddo.
Oh.

He's got a new mom not a year after his real mom died.
カタン
Poor kid.
Did he wet the bed again?
Looks like it.
……
And his dad's acting like a different person.
Any kid'd be upset.
"Hey, Leon."

She's watching you from far away now.
She became a star.
Mommy didn't die.
My mom died the spring I was 4.
So don't be sad.
what dying even meant.
Let's say goodbye.
But I had no idea back then
... Leon.

L, Leon !?
Mommy!
"When I hug you
it makes me happy"
She was so warm
And smelled so good.
Mommy...
Hug me, Mommy!
You don't look happy.
Let's play!

Then I was 5,
six months since I'd met Haru.
Hey, everyone,
did you know?
Tonight there will be a meteor shower.
Shooting stars
Meteor?
I was no longer a prince...
just Haru's sidekick.
So let's all watch the stars tonight
"She became a star."
That's it!
?
This is my chance!!
Yay!
with our families!!
Stars ...

And then
ばあ
ばあ
Maybe tonight I'll get to see
And we'll go home together!!
she'll hug me again
and we'll both be happy.
"Leon"
"Mommy."
I'm home!
Star
Mommy again now that she's a star.
What're you doing?
Binoculars
Oh... Right
Super Rangers? Vwooom
Like this!
Hey! Hey! I need a Magical Scope!
Magical Scope?
that goes vwooom and makes things bigger!
Like the one the Super Rangers use

N, nothing.
Haru ...
ドゴ
ゴゴ
ぎゅ

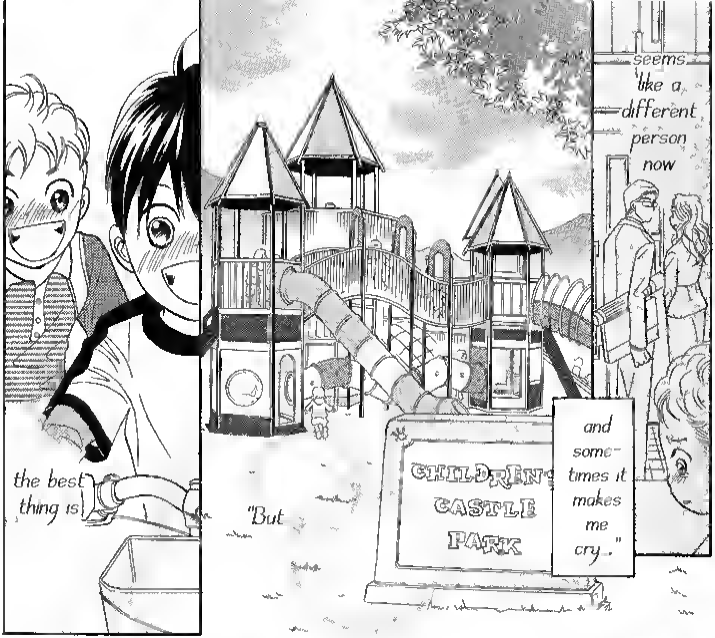
But kids can't stay out at night alone.
A shooting star?
I'm gonna go to the children's castle and stay until night-time!!
I'm gonna go now.
That's why

Look.
Is it the real thing!?
Does it have Emperor Zoom Search!?
Um
There, now I can see
With this
I can search a lot.
A Magical scope!!
With this I'll be invincible!!
I'm going, too!!
With this, maybe I can find another intersex kid!!
Intersex kid?

there might not be any in my elementary school, either, though...
Mommy said
There's lots of kids at the children's castle, though
.....
N, not a boy
and not a girl.
Re-mem-ber?
What kind of kid?
We looked before with the back-packs.
You can meet them!
Will there be one?
Let's go together!!
Let's go!!

It was our big adventure.
And we're off!!
It was only 15 minutes by bike
Why am I inter sex!?
A few days before, Haru had run away from school and caused a scene
Haru was going to search for an intersex kid
and I was going to see my mom
But we had to cross a very busy road to get there,
so we were forbidden to go on our own.
Let's go after the next one!!
Come on!

We did it!!
We escaped from Hell Thunder!!
Super speed!
Super fire!
When I see Mommy, I'll tell her
"Daddy—
"I can get up to 100 on the pogo stick
without training wheels now"
"I can ride my bike


seems like a different person now
the best thing is
"But
CHILDREN'S CASTLE PARK
and sometimes it makes me cry."

We're here!
"I'm a big boy now!"
I'm gonna be in 1st grade soon."

Did you find an intersex kid!?
Mmm
Did you find 'em?
Mm m..
D'you find anyone yet?
yawn
Ewwww!

S...
S...
S...
ゴゴゴ
Sorry!
ガーーーーン
シャー
Well,
we can just rinse 'em off.
Sorry...
Ha...

Huh...?
Whaaaat !?
There!
Hey ...
You can't see anything anymore, just give up.
...No.

No! I don't wanna be all alone!
C'mon!
Gimme back my Magical Scope!
No.
Gim me!
Oh.
It was then
that I figured out what intersex must mean,
after seeing Haru naked

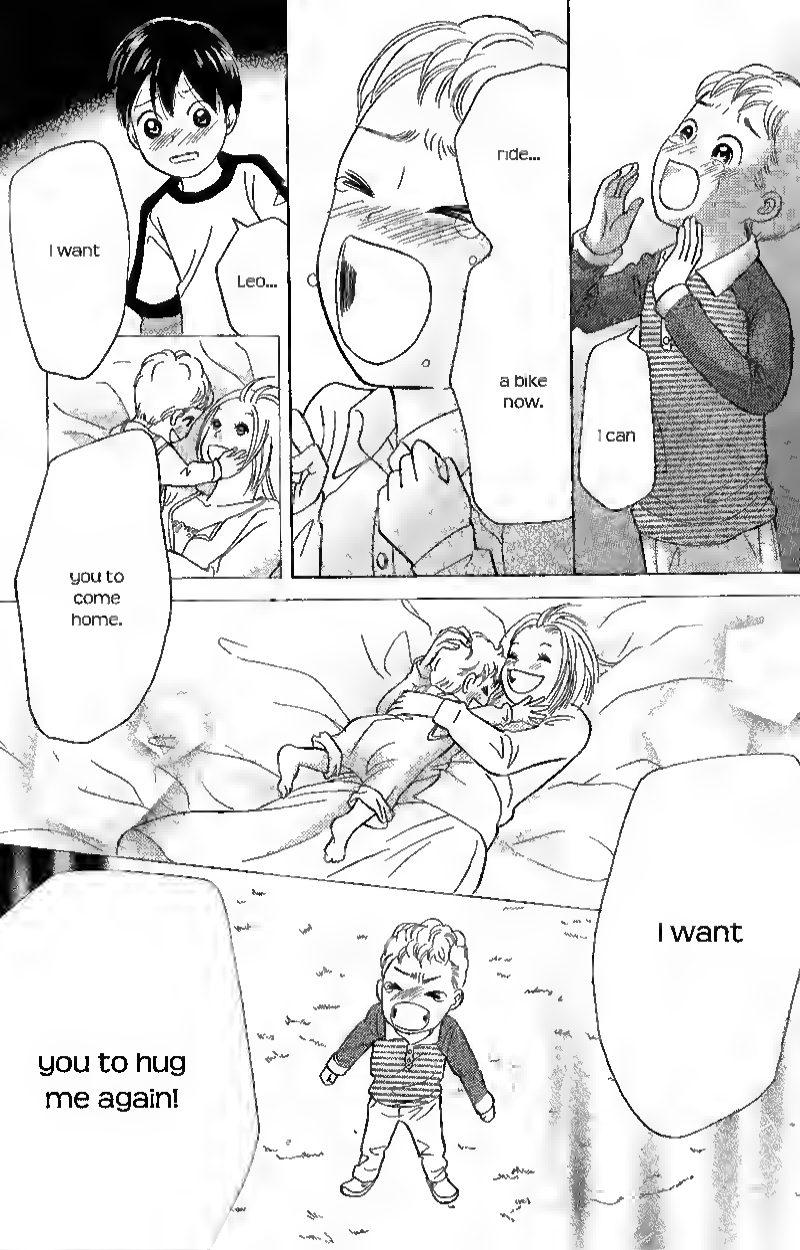
Alone
And I realized why he kept looking through the Magical Scope...
Let's go hom...
I realized Haru and I were the same.
it's dark outside, after all.
...Hey
Dummy! If I go now
you'll be all alone!
Wahhh
.....
Ooh
じわ

"Don't ever think you're all alone"
.....
Sorry.
I lied when I said I was alone.
My mom told me every-one's my friend.
.....
So you're my friend, too, Leon.
Boys and girls.
And we're not alone.

I'm
gonna ask my mom!!
ㅏㅏ!!
From up in the sky
I bet she can find an intersex kid.
Huh ...?
I told you, didn't I?
Tonight's the night I get to see my mom.
Just wait, I'm gonna call her.
I'll find
an intersex kid for you.

Nooooooo!!
Wow!
Another shooting star!
Did you see that!? Your mom said
"over here"...
Cool!!!

She was too far
to reach
...Leon ?
I was sad
Now I knew
"Becoming a star" means "never seeing her again"
I'm gonna be
in first grade.
Oh... look, another one.
Mom...my.


I want
Leo...
you to
come
home.
ride...
a bike
now.
I can
I want
you to hug
me again!

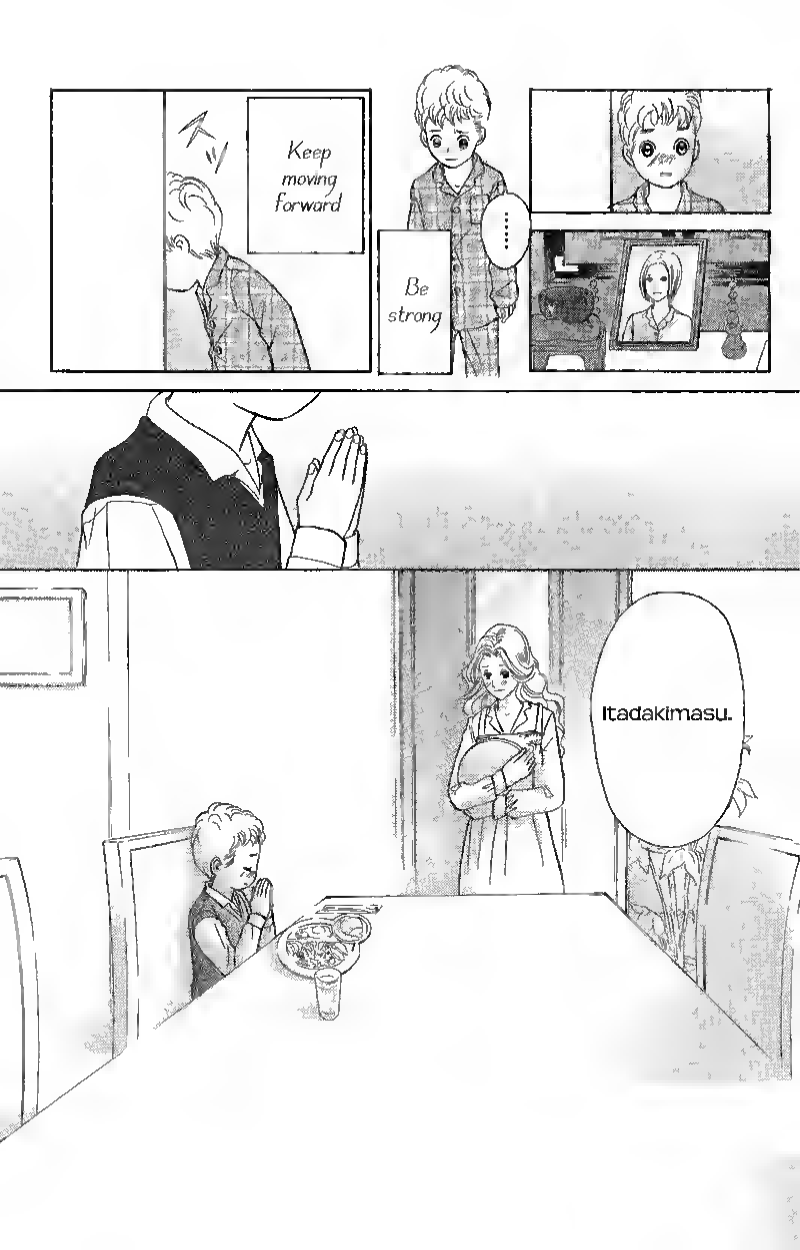
My dead mom...
The intersex kids Haru couldn't find...
The feeling of wanting to see someone...
Haru's body
There were all these things we couldn't do anything about
That night was the first time I realized that

This was reality
Leon!
Mom ...
Thank goodness!
and it wasn't going to change
"Squeeze!"

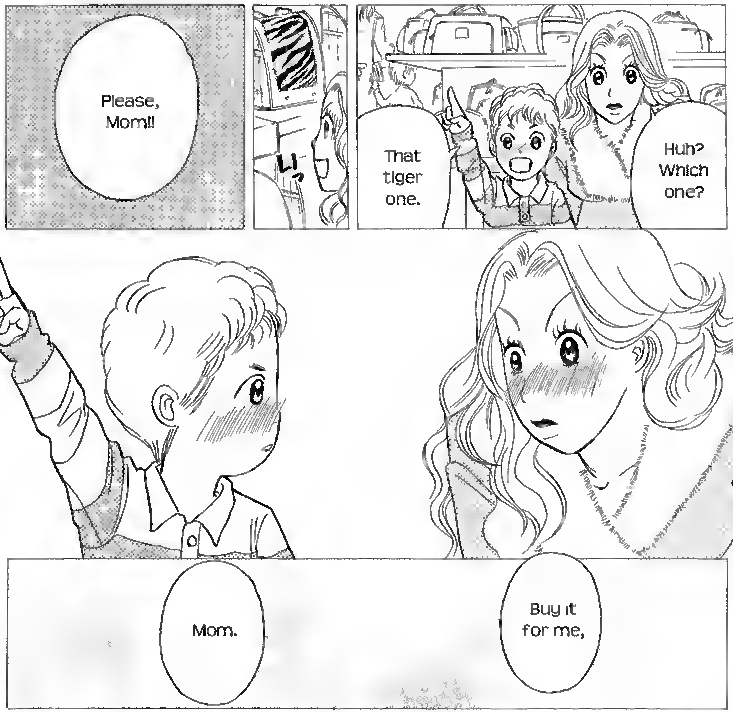
I thought you ran away
because you hated me.
"Leon."
Leon-kun,
what's wrong?

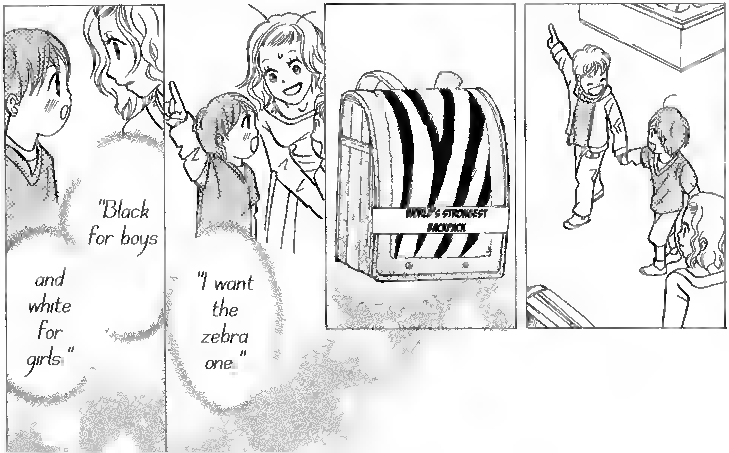
Ooh...
I thought
Wahhhh...
I had to be strong
That I just had to keep walking...
チュン
チュン

キシ
Time for breakfast, Leon-kun.


Keep moving forward
Be strong
.....
Itadakimasu.

This is really important.
Hey!
I've got to be strong.
WORLD'S STRONGEST SERIES
WORLD'S STRONGEST BACKPACK
WON'T TEAR EVEN IF A TIGER BITES IT!!
Mommy... I...
I want that one.


Please, Mom!!
Li?
That tiger one.
Huh? Which one?
Mom.
Buy it for me,


"Black for boys and white for girls."
"I want the zebra one."
WORLD'S STRONGEST BACKPACK

"I want that one 'cause it's got both"
The zebra ended up
stronger than me.
but I'll get there step by step
カタン
I'm not strong yet,
I'm gonna do it, Haru!
And
my mom cheers me up
from up in heaven

●ＩＳ男でも女でもない性 11 ／おわり●
所載/2007年 Kiss No.17~20, One more Kiss 7月号

Manga Afterword

Hello, Rokuhana here.

It's the end of the year when I'm writing this.

And you know what that means.

A trip down memory lane?

And so, allow me to share a nostalgic memory with you

TIME SLIP

Around the time of my debut

FAX machines were still very expensive.

Home FAXes weren't yet common, and there wasn't one at the convenience store, either.

Office

ヒ〃〃〃

NTT = Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, a Japanese phone company.

Why?
Whew ...
Should be fi-
We can't find anything wrong on our end.
B, but it's making a weird noise...
PRRRRRRRR!
Huh?
It stops when I get close?
When I put down the receiver and walked away, it got louder, but it would suddenly stop whenever I got close.
Stoooooop!
But no matter how many times they checked, they couldn't find anything wrong.

Ahh...I love the sound of insects.
No way.
But they suddenly stop when I get close...
P,P,
P,P,
P,P,
No way.
It couldn't be...
PHONEBOOK
PHONEBOOK

PRRRRRRRR!
Eeeeeeeek!
IT'S A CRIKET!!
ビク!!
We'll send someone over to check on it tomorrow!!
We still can't find anything wrong.
Um...
It's fixed now.
Huh...?
It's fixed?
Yes—
Sorry.
What about the inspec-tion?
No, it's fine
Sorry
I couldn't bring myself to say it was a cricket.
A cricket's chirping really sounds mechanical when they're that small
SORRY
This one was about insects, too
取材協力 三毛の庭 http://www.mikeniwa.net/